

From: BrkAtWrk@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR,consumer@mail.wvnet.edu@inetgw,uag@a...
Date: 12/4/01 9:00am
Subject: Please rein in Microsoft

Sirs:

Strong sanctions against microsoft are appropriate.

Controlling Microsoft is not just about their domination in the market place.

Yes, they have good products, but compared to what? Compared to alternatives that have never seen the light of day. But moreover, it is a matter of speech: Microsoft is media, and behemoth corporations are not a good thing for this country.

Yes, there can be other behemoths that might compete with them, but that is NOT the way to run a train. AOL-TimeWarner, Rupert Murdoch, Microsoft and someplace in there is the United States government, which is the representative of the people, growing relatively smaller and weaker and subject to influence of corporations that can run their states ragged. California knows the railroads, West Virginia knows the coal industry, and even the United States has known Standard Oil.

This is serious business. The only remedy for Microsoft is now structural: without an effective means of defining and enforcing consent decrees, that is all that is left.

Absent structural changes, we will see very unpleasant effects of Microsofts dominance in the next 10 years that may remind us all of the one basket approach, in Ireland, when that basket held one kind of potato. Here, an overwhelming percentage of the population will have the same software, thought which most of their information will flow but whose workings are unknown to us.

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